

# UNITED STATES MILITARY STATIONS: THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF CEBU

by Nestor C. Nuñez and Alfred F. Kugel

(Third in a series. The first part appeared in No. 3, 3rd Quarter, 1996 and the second in No. 2, 2nd Quarter, 1997.)

After occupying the town of Iloilo (Panay Island) on February 11, 1899, the instruction of Gen. Marcus Miller (of the 1st Separate Brigade of the 8th Army) (1) was to proceed to the town of Cebu (Cebu Island) and similarly occupy it. To this end, the *Petrel* was sent there from Iloilo. As in the case of Iloilo, resistance was expected, but the occupation of the town was achieved without bloodshed.

The situation in Cebu at that time, as related by the German consul to Faust (2): "There was a stormy meeting of the townspeople on February 17 upon hearing of the approach of the Americans. The young men advised the burning of the town and fighting to the bitter end, but the older men advised calmer councils. There was a second meeting at noon and the wiser heads prevailed. On February 21, the *Petrel* was seen, and prominent local persons Llorente, Majie, Garardo, Qui and Climaco, leaders of Cebu, went out to meet her. When told by Mr. Sidebottom, English Consul, who was acting for the American government about the intentions of the Americans, Majie said that "the people of Cebu, finding themselves abandoned by the Spaniards, have joined the Filipino republic." The Commander of the *Petrel* gave them until eight o'clock on February 22 to surrender. A great many were in favor of burning the town, but at seven o'clock on the night of February 21, it was agreed under the influence of Majie and Llorente, to yield to superior force and to give up the town, but under

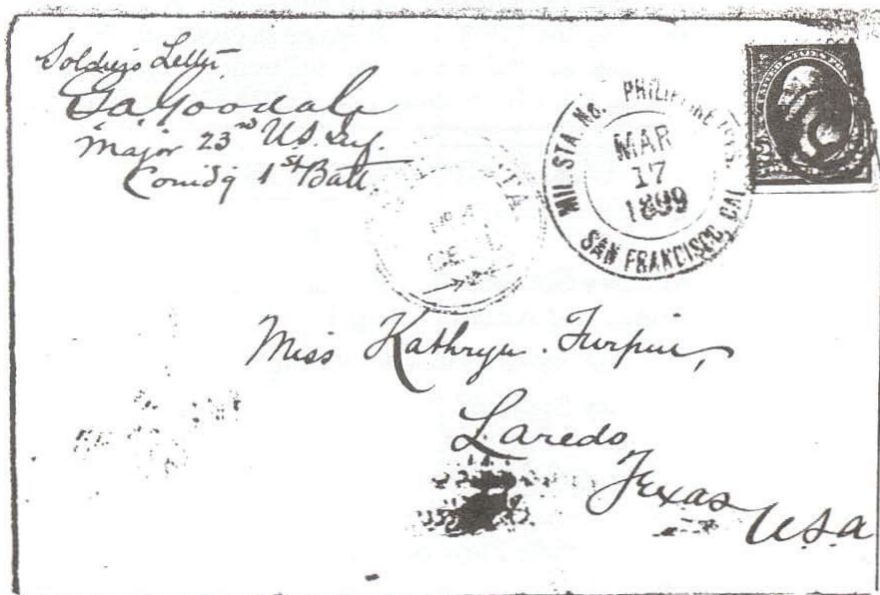
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protest, stating that they had no order from Aguinaldo to that effect (3). At 8:30 a.m. on February 22, they sent word to the commander of the *Petrel*. At 9:30 forty sailors were landed, and at 9:40 the Stars and Stripes were hoisted over Cebu.

On February 28, the 1st Battalion of the 23rd Infantry under Major George S. Goodale left Manila for Cebu, arriving on March 1. To quote Goodale: "We left Manila for Cebu on only a few hours' notice and possibly there was no time for a postal agent to accompany us. However, one arrived soon thereafter. In the interim all mail was handled by the military authorities. The post office was opened May 1, 1899" (4). In the Hoge (5) photocopy archives is a cover sent by Goodale to Colfax, California with a Manila small steel postmark of March 8, 1899. At the back of the cover is this notation in manuscript: "From Cebu before it was Military Station No. 4." This cover gives a likely indication that the first mails from Cebu might have been sent to Manila without local processing. Local military personnel would have processed mail shortly thereafter, as the Cebu DS1 and US1, have been recorded as early as March 17, 1899. It is reasonable to assume that Cebu became a military postal station on May 1, 1899 (date of opening of the post office per Goodale).

Cebu was the 2nd District Headquarters of the Department of the Visayas, United States Army, in March 1900. Col. Hamer of the Idaho regiment was initially the military governor. Civil government was established April 18, 1901; restored to the military July 17, 1901; and restored to civil government January 1, 1902 (6).





The following are the recorded postmarks of Cebu, including postage due and auxiliary markings.



DS1. Double-ring rubber cancel-  
ler with "1" deleted. This device  
was first used in Manila, which  
was Military Station No. 1. (7).  
Seen used in Cebu always with  
US 1, but similar devices (also  
with "1" deleted) were also used  
in Iloilo and in Bacolod as stand  
alone postmarks. This combina-  
tion has also been seen as a re-  
ceiving mark (earliest March 17,  
latest April 10, 1899). Struck in  
black or blue black.

Earliest: March 16, 1899  
Latest: May 1, 1899



DS2. Single-ring rubber  
datestamp 29 mm, with three  
horizontal bar killers 16 mm  
wide. Struck in purple or red  
purple or black (March 6, 1900  
usage). Also used as a receiving  
cancel.

Earliest: May 6, 1899  
Latest: September 1, 1900



DS3. Single-ring steel datestamp  
29 mm. Eight bar barrel killer.  
"Standard" type of civil govern-  
ment postmarks. Seen with year  
slug inverted (June 19, 1900).  
Struck in black.

Earliest: April 3, 1900  
Latest: used well beyond July 4,  
1902



US1. Undated double-ring stamp, used as postal station identifier together with DS1, or as an early receiving stamp. In his article (4), Goodale mentioned a "cover from California to Cebu with a Manila postmark of April 10, 1899" and this postmark (US1) as a receiving mark (8).

Earliest: March 16, 1899

Latest: May 1?, 1899



RC1. Single-ring rubber datestamp 30 mm, with "REC'D" at bottom of dial. A cover in the Kugel collection shows this mark used as a canceller on July 5, 1900, on registered mail to Leipzig on July 5, 1900, with RG1. Struck in purple (per Goodale) or black, or blue black.

Earliest: May 25, 1899

Latest: November 20, 1900

REGISTERED

MAR 6 1901

Military Station No. 4,  
Cebu, Phil. Islands.

RG1. Four-line registration stamp of mixed seriffed and non-seriffed capital and small letters 4 to 5 mm tall, lines 39 to 41 mm long. Generally used with dumb killers obliterating the stamps. Color unknown.

Earliest: June 2, 1899

Latest: December 11, 1901

R

RG2. Thick, non-serif capital letter "R" sometimes used with RG1, and preceded or followed by the registration number in Cebu. (Registered letters normally also receive another registry control number in Manila). Color of strikes unknown.

Earliest: June 2, 1899

Latest: December 30, 1899



POSTAGE DUE TWO CENTS.

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RG3. Double-circle registered cancel, civilian government type, 30 mm outer circle diameter. Seen used with indistinct obliterator, which look like AX3.

Earliest: May 9, 1902

PD1. State I. "POSTAGE DUE TWO CENTS" in capital Roman letters 3 mm tall, 62 mm long. Appears to be made from rubber. Presumably, there was more than one device of this type (see State II, recorded used before the latest recorded use of State I). Struck in black.

Earliest: June 6, 1899

Latest: October 19, 1901

PD1. State II. As in State I, but with "TWO" excised, creating a space for manuscript marking of the postage due charge.

Earliest: October 12, 1899

PD2. "POSTAGE DUE TWO CENTS" in capital Roman letters 3 mm tall, in a wavy line 60 mm long (horizontal length). Appears to be made of rubber. The wavy line does not appear to be the result of distortion of the rubber in hot weather, as the letters are of even height, and are in upright position even when at the wave curve. Used concurrently with PD1. Struck in black.

Earliest date: October 15,  
1900

Latest date: December 21,  
1900



## POSTAGE DUE, 2 CTS.

PD3. "POSTAGE DUE, 2 CTS." in non-serifed capital block letters 5 mm tall, 60 mm long. Appears to be made of rubber. The single impression seen (9) show significant deterioration in the letters, and the illustration has been enhanced for clarity. Struck in Violet.

Earliest date: April 3, 1900.



AX1. "Parilla" or oval grill dumb obliterator used during the early years of the Spanish colonial stamp period, used as canceller with RG1. While the usage seen is late in the military period, this mark is listed first due to the device's earlier existence. Probably struck in black.

Latest: March 6, 1901



AX2. Diamond segmented killer, cut from a circular block 24 mm in diameter and sliced into 20 diamonds. Used in conjunction with RG1. Struck in blue black.

Earliest: November 13, 1899

Latest: June 13, 1901



AX3. Twelve uneven solid bars, 16 x 14 mm in the aggregate, probably made from solid irregular rubber and cut into sections. Seen used with RG1 on December 11, 1901.

Earliest: December 11, 1901

Collectors of this area and other readers are encouraged to look into their collections with a view of adding types not included in this article, and/or extending the earliest or latest dates. Information should be sent to the authors at P.O. Box 12, San Mateo, CA 94401. Postage and photocopy (preferably color) costs to be reimbursed, and credits to be attributed. (Copyright reserved by the authors).

Soldier's letter:-  
 Aunt Martha  
 1 - Sh. 19 H. Inf.  
 Cebu, P. I.



PHILIPPINES.

Dr. A. R. Allen,  
 Carbide, Cumberland Co.,  
 Pennsylvania.  
 U.S.A.

**DS2 Cancellation on cover to Pennsylvania**

**POSTMARK LIST CONCORDANCE**

Nuñez/Kugel	Goodale (4)	Baker (10)
DS1	—	—
DS2	A-2	C-2
DS3	A-3	—
US1	A-1	CA-2
RC1	RC-1	CE-2
RG1	RG-1	SR-2
RG2	—	—
RG3	—	—
PD1 S.I	—	—
PD1 S.II	—	—
PD2	—	—
PD3	—	—
AX1	—	—
AX2	—	—
AX3	—	—

## ENDNOTES:

1. According to Faust (see endnote No. 2), the "Separate Brigade" was created by Gen. Elwell Otis "within the meaning of the 73d Article of War and designated as the 1st Separate Brigade of the 8th Army Corps." The brigade was initially sent to Iloilo in December 1898, remaining in the transports at Iloilo Harbor until February 11, 1899 when it took possession of Iloilo after bombardment of Filipino positions.
2. Faust, Karl Irving, *Campaigning in the Philippines*, The Hicks-Judd Publishing Company, San Francisco, 1899.
3. Prior to the coming of the American forces, the islands of Panay, Negros and Cebu (locations of the major towns of Iloilo, Bacolod and Cebu) formed the "Visayan Republic," a step into independent self government after the collapse of Spanish authority. Based on the earlier incident in Iloilo, where the local officials refused permission to the American expeditionary force to land without orders from Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, and the comments of the local leader Majie in Cebu, this "Visayan Republic" recognized the government of Aguinaldo as the legitimate national government.
4. Goodale, George S., "U.S. Military Postal Stations in the Philippines (1898-1904)," *Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks*, edited by Delf Norona, Quarterman Publications, Lawrence, MA, 1975.
5. Correspondence of March 5 1997 from Robert C. Hoge, whose covers and photocopy archives have been enormously helpful in developing this article. The authors would like to acknowledge the help from other Philippine specialists, especially the opportunity to view actual covers or photocopies of the collections of Capt. Weston Burnett, Wolfgang Haberland, Fritz-Walter Lange, the late Lynn Warm-Griffith, and Robert F. Yacano.
6. Dates are from Goodale. While the occupation of the city of Cebu was accomplished without bloodshed, the pacification of the island of Cebu did not come easily. This is probably the reason why the government had to be restored to military rule for some six months in 1901. Faust went to Cebu in the course of writing his book, and notes that in Cebu "the insurgents have become active again, and at the date of the publication of this volume [1899], is fighting going on with what results cannot yet be ascertained."



7. Nuñez, Nestor C., *Philippine-American War: "Island Hopping"?* of a U.S. Military Cancel: Additional Notes, unpublished manuscript which makes additional comments on the use of the DS1 device which was the subject of an article by Haberland, Wolfgang, *American Philippine War 1899-1902, Island Hopping by a US Field Post Cancel* (translated by C.A. Richmond from "Rundbrief USA"), Possessions, published by the United States Possessions Society, Vol. 17 No. 1, Whole 59, First Quarter 1994. It is curious that Goodale did not include this datestamp among his list of postmarks (see Endnote 8). The Nuñez collection has a cover from Goodale sent to Laredo, Texas with US1 and DS1 dated March 17, 1899. The Kugel collection also has these combination uses in a postcard to Zurich postmarked March 20, and as receiving marks, dated March 17, 1899.
  8. The Hoge photocopy archive has a U.S. One Cent Grant postal card with paid reply, which was sent from Grass Valley, CA on February 23, 1899 to Goodale (addressed to Manila). The card was evidently forwarded to Cebu (where Goodale was stationed from March 1) and postmarked on receipt on April 10 (DS1 and US1 strikes). This is most likely the "cover" that Goodale referred to, and he mistakenly supposed that the DS1 strike was a Manila receiving mark.
  9. Correspondence from Capt. Weston D. Burnett, August 27, 1997.
  10. Baker, Philip E., *Postal Markings of United States Military Stations, 1898-1902*, 1963.
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## CEBU BIASECTED STAMPS

*By Col. Gustavo C. Ingles*

Bisected stamps are stamps which are cut into halves to allow usage of part, normally fifty (50) percent, of its face value. (COVER) This mode of payment for postal charges is authorized in some countries in case of shortage of stamps of the required denomination. Its employment has never been authorized by the Postmaster General of the Philippines. There was an instance, however, when it was employed in Cebu City in the Philippines after 1945 due to extreme shortage of stamps of the required denomination.

Cebu City was the second largest city in the Philippines after World War II. It was forced to use bisected stamps early in 1948 due to the absence of the necessary two-centavo stamps for its domestic mail service.